

House File 423 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 423

BY GRASSLEY

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to social studies instruction requirements for
2 high school students.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code
2 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. Five units of the social studies ~~including instruction~~
4 ~~in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration~~
5 ~~requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems~~
6 ~~in the election process, and the method of acquiring and~~
7 ~~casting an absentee ballot.~~ All students shall complete a
8 minimum of ~~one-half~~ one unit of United States government and
9 one unit of United States history. ~~The one-half unit of~~
10 ~~United States government shall include the voting procedure~~
11 ~~as described in this lettered paragraph and section 280.9A.~~
12 The government instruction shall also include a study of the
13 Constitution of the United States; ~~and~~ the Bill of Rights
14 contained in the Constitution; ~~and~~ the federal system of
15 government; the overlapping features and responsibilities of
16 the national, state, county, and local governments; and the
17 tenets of American citizenship, including civility, mutual
18 respect, political discourse, and appreciation of the common
19 public concerns of Americans. The government instruction
20 shall include an assessment of a student's knowledge of the
21 Constitution, ~~and~~ the Bill of Rights, and the principles of
22 American citizenship.

23 Sec. 2. Section 280.9A, subsection 1, Code 2013, is amended
24 to read as follows:

25 1. The board of directors of each local public school
26 district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school
27 shall require that all students in grades nine through twelve
28 complete, as a condition of graduation, instruction in American
29 history and the governments of Iowa and the United States,
30 ~~including instruction in voting statutes and procedures, voter~~
31 ~~registration requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting~~
32 ~~systems in the election process, and the method of acquiring~~
33 ~~and casting an absentee ballot.~~

34 Sec. 3. Section 280.9A, subsection 2, Code 2013, is amended
35 by striking the subsection.

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1 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
2 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
3 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
4 mandates included in the bill.